IDAHO SDI PROJECT-STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
SUMMARY NOTES FROM TWIN FALLS-JUNE 25

Prepared, 7-10-2008

Introduction

These are summary notes from the stakeholder meeting for Idaho Spatial Data Infrastructure Planning Project on June 25, 2008 in Twin Falls. The SDI planning project has the main objective of preparing strategic and business plans to guide long-term enhancement and development of a statewide SDI. This is one of 6 regional stakeholder meetings conducted at different locations around the state (other locations include McCall, Lewiston, Post Falls, Pocatello, Nampa) during the month of June. The purpose of these meetings was to:

- Get input and ideas for achieving the SDI
- Learn about status of stakeholder GIS use, business needs, and ideas on direction and goals
- Build stakeholder understanding of and support for statewide SDI development

Participants are encouraged to submit comments, clarification, additional points, etc. Comments and mark-ups may be submitted in electronic form (highlighted mark-up of this document) by **July 30, 2008**. Please submit via email to Gail Ewart (gail.ewart@cio.idaho.gov) and Peter Croswell (pcroswell@croswell-schulte.com).

Meeting Participants and Contact Information

Name	Organization	Phone/Email Address
Nick Nydegger	State of Idaho Military Division and Idaho Geospatial Committee (IGC) Chair	208-272-4182, nick.nydegger@id.ngb.army.mil
Gail Ewart	Idaho Geospatial Office, State GIO and SDI project manager	208-332-1879, gail.ewart@cio.idaho.gov
Peter Croswell	Croswell-Schulte IT Consultants, contracted facilitator and project manager	502-848-8827, pcroswell@croswell-schulte.com
Scott Van Hoff	US Geological Survey, State Liaison	890-6092, svanhoff@usgs.gov
Joan Appell	City of Jerome	324-9669, joan.appell@ci.jerome.id.us
Gary Young	US Bureau of Reclamation	678-0467, gyoung@pn.usbr.gov
Jill Kuenzi	US Forest Service-Sawtooth National Forest	737-3246, jkuenzi@fs.fed.us
Lynn McGuire	Camas County Assessor	764-2370, cammasassessor@rtci.net
Nancy Moore	Gooding County Assessor	934-5666, nmoore@co.gooding.id.us

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Business Drivers and Business Needs for GIS
3. High-level Characterization of GIS Status and Obstacles
4. Geospatial Data Activities and Needs
5. Ideas for Improvements to Statewide GIS Access and Coordination
6. Brainstorm Session on Mission, Vision, and Goals for Implementing Idaho's Spatial Information Infrastructure
7. Summarize Results of Meeting and Identify Follow-up

Summary Notes

Business Drivers (major program area, need, or challenge that GIS technology and geospatial data can help support or address)

- Public Safety Response: use of GIS for emergency response planning and operations and support for dispatch (police, fire, EMS). Includes mobile access in vehicles. GIS databases that include critical facilities (schools, day care, adult care, etc.) support more effective emergency response. Reference made to the dispatch facility SIRCOM, in City of Jerome.
- Hydrant Mapping: City used GIS to map location of hydrants and capture information on hydrant characteristics and flow tests. This was used to upgrade hydrants at certain locations. This GIS database was used to support lowering insurance rates from private insurance providers to local government, homeowners and businesses.
- Better Management of Open Space Supporting Flood Management: GIS use as planning tool for development and open space planning that can result in reduced flood damage threat.
- Pavement Management: better planning for road maintenance and work response. (e.g., better decisions on timing and type of maintenance—like taking advantage of cost differences for different types of maintenance action--patching, tar-and-chip, full repaving
- Tracking Vandalism: Identifying sites for vandalism to support public safety planning
- Local development planning for public safety: City support in planning sidewalks and routes to school to increase safety for students on foot
- Real Property Appraisal: use of GIS to support more consistent and accurate property appraisal. Includes use of imagery to identify new construction and site improvements. Can eliminate some fieldwork. A variety of GIS data sets are useful in the appraisal process: land use, ag land and forestry acreage. Can increase the equity of appraisals and increase tax revenue by reducing under-appraisals
- Economic Development: GIS can provide better access for information needed by developers to identify sites for development. An easy to access, map-based resource makes it more likely that developers will consider sites for development. Also, just the existence of a sound GIS program by a local agency is itself an incentive for a firm to locate in that jurisdiction.
- Land Use Planning Decision Support: use of GIS to support development review and approval. Includes tracking land use impact zones around cities for issues such as: a) infrastructure development, b) examining opportunities for complementary businesses taking advantage of proximity, c) environmental impact from range cattle grazing (e.g., BLM land) and d) injection well management issues. Concept of “industrial ecology” was raised—use of GIS to examine the interplay among different facilities and infrastructure in an area to make sound development decisions
- USFS Search and Rescue: USFS responsible for rescue operations for people on national forest lands. GIS data supports search and rescue in remote areas and supports coordination with local jurisdictions.
- Wildland Fire Management: GIS used to support both planning and fires response operations. USFS now uses grid-based “LandFire system.” Important for locating wildland/urban interface. Use GIS to manage response to fires—location of fire camps, heliports, etc.
- Emergency Planning: use of GIS to support evacuation route planning
- Invasive Species (plant, animal) Tracking: GIS use to help gather and view information on invasive species as support for management and eradication. Considerable Federal and local funding to control invasive species. Big impact on tourism, fishing/hunting industry, cattle industry
- Utility infrastructure management: Use of GIS to support efficient design and work management for water and sewer systems (exercising valves, sewer/water crosses, utility line isolation to support repairs, work order management)

Current GIS Status, Obstacles, Limitations

- Data funding limitations: City of Jerome must charge private sector for data in order to fund future imagery collection. The revenue is held in a special fund. This necessity restricts data sharing.
- Senior Management Awareness and Understanding of GIS and its Uses: Senor officials (including elected officials) at all levels need more information to help “contextualize GIS” –more information to show how GIS technology supports their organization mission and user needs. They often think of GIS as a frill rather than a necessity and don’t understand what it takes to develop and sustain GIS operations. Acknowledgement of need to target key leaders to get additional support for GIS development and use. It is important to provide clear information on resources (money, people) that is required.

- Organizational barriers in sharing data: Ineffective organizational structures and mechanisms enabling easy sharing of data and to communicate and fix problems or coordinate on data maintenance
- Resource limitations at county level: Insufficient resources (money, staff) to support GIS programs.
- Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB): Acknowledgement of strong need for GCDB accuracy improvements including monument placement. In many cases, coordinate assigned to PLSS corners base on old GLO surveys and are not accurate. This impacts many boundary themes.
- State Tax Commission is key element in statewide GIS database development (parcels, taxing districts), but they have limited resources to support counties and support consistent GIS database development
- Public records law limitations: ID public records law and inconsistencies at the local level on policies and procedures for access and distribution of GIS data and products—including policies for fee setting. There is need for more consistent policies that can be applied statewide in a way that does not result in inhibiting access to GIS data. Need to examine possible requirement for changing wording of law or getting more clarification and consistent policies.
- Information Privacy/Sensitivity: Concerns about GIS data access as it impacts data items that have some personal privacy or confidentiality concerns. This includes some property data (ownership info, property characteristics) which may be public data but which local governments are reluctant to release in electronic form. Note: Citizens in Idaho are not required to provide information on real property sales (it is voluntary) which makes it difficult for local appraisers to determine valid values in based on local sales figures
- Technology Costs: costs for SW are high when SW support fees are included. Need for continual HW and SW upgrades is hard to manage and costly.
- Technology Interoperability: GIS applications often require integration and interoperability between multiple SW packages and databases. As versions of one package change it may impact other software and integrated applications but can be hard to predict. Complex environment for supporting applications and SW.
- Training and Education Opportunities: Suggestion for coordination with NR URISA Chapter to support training and education. Could use better information (directory, clearinghouse) about training opportunities—particularly low-cost training
- Metadata: Not enough easily accessible metadata information

Geospatial Data Status and Needs

- Framework Themes: Gail Ewart discussed current Idaho Framework Data Themes (commonly needed data by majority of stakeholders) with idea that this definition can be adapted as part of this SDI project. Current Idaho Framework Themes are a) Geodetic Control, b) Cadastral, c) Orthoimagery, d) Transportation, e) Land Use/Land Cover, f) Hydrography/Watersheds, g) Elevation, h) Governmental Units.
- Status of Framework development work at state level:
  - GIO preparing proposed process for standards making and approval
  - Imagery – 2009 NAIP partnership purchase. Contribution commitments & upgrade needs
  - Cadastral Reference (updating GCDB). Assessors and surveyors are also involved; plans are beginning to gel; led by Sheldon Bluestein
  - Parcels – working on goals and objectives for statewide ownership; led by Craig Rindlisbacher and Jeff Servatius
  - Geodetic Control – ITD has agreed to be the lead agency for Height Modernization. Next steps include writing a proposal
  - Road Centerlines project expanding to half of Idaho's counties and is refreshed weekly on INSIDE Idaho
- Orthoimagery: Gail Ewart discussed current project in place for full state coverage of orthoimagery as part of Farm Service Agency National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP). This will deliver 1-meter resolution (3-bands) statewide with opportunity for increased resolution and IR band for selected areas. This is leaf-on coverage. Mechanism is set-up to support contributions of funding for consortium purchase. Inconsistencies in Data Formats: Not sufficient level of standards and use of standards for GIS data statewide. This inhibits creation and sharing of data across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Metadata: easy access to Metadata is important
- Statewide data standards should focus on required fields—minimum data content, main data attributes and key fields that support integration and sharing of data sets.
- USFS is in the process of developing a revised data dictionary to support ESRI Geodatabase development—covers all core layers managed by the USFS

- NAIP 1-meter imagery is useful for USFS
- Image file size: concern about storage constraints for imagery and impact of different compression formats
- Governmental Boundaries: it was acknowledged that there are problems with accurately definition of county boundaries (originally surveys not clear, monuments not recovered, ill-defined water boundaries on original surveys) and that resolving all these problems could be difficult and time consuming. It is important to identify these problems and establish basis for resolving them. Priority for boundary resolution should be in cases where there is a business need: a) areas of development, b) where property ownership/taxation issues are major concerns, c) where emergency services jurisdictional questions are important. Need to get local input on cases that need to be resolved.
- NAIP Imagery Funding Mechanism: interest in using the joint funding mechanism to support acquisition of additional imagery exceeding NAIP standards (higher resolution, leaf-off) and interest in ability to easily fuse different imagery data sets.
- Data Access/Integration: need simple tools and directions on how to carryout simple data integration (table joins and relates) to support GIS applications
- GCDB Coordinate Control: important to upgrade accuracy of coordinate information for PLSS corners. Should coordinate with private surveying community to capture survey and monumentation information gathered for individual projects.
- USFS ALP System: USFS has asked all Region 4 offices to verify property boundaries (voluntary) for ALP program by end of 2008.
- BLM recently published a statewide road centerline dataset without any connection to the Idaho Roads Project Most recent incident of duplication of effort.
- Insufficient Information on Data Updates: Not always easily accessible information on when GIS data sets are updated or knowing which data set is the most current.
- Water and Sewer: Water and sewer GIS data maintained by city utility departments, utility districts, and some private water companies (United Water). Data formats not standardized. There are concerns about data security associated with “critical infrastructure” issues (data access for terrorism purposes). It was noted that there is no consistent policies to respond to critical infrastructure concerns. This creates inconsistencies and obstacles to respond to valid needs for access to water and sewer infrastructure information (need to support local government planning and development activities).
- Transcontinental Utility Lines: Includes major regional lines for petroleum, natural gas, gasoline, fiber optic. Data is important for local planning purposes in some cases (avoid impacts from development). Also important for property taxation issues (based on lengths of lines by County).
- Soils Data: Detailed soils data (SSURGO) from NRCS is used in rural land property appraisal—to determine ag value and to glean information on land slope.
- Rural addressing: statewide standard in place for grid-based addressing in rural areas. Some inconsistencies when grid for one county is extrapolated into another county.
- Invasive species mapping is important
- Some problems in defining administrative and tax district boundaries
- Need better way to translate between projections (automatic way) to use statewide IDTM projection/coordinates and standard UTM and State Plane.
- Hunt Units: possible need for Hunt Unit boundaries to support allocation of tags to hunters and, through handheld units, to ensure that hunters stay within designated area.
- Critical facilities to support public safety response: could benefit from GIS layers of “critical facilities” to support emergency response: Haz mat storage. Child care facilities, schools, adult care facilities

Discussion on Draft Vision and Mission (reaction to draft Vision and Mission statements prepared by the Executive Steering Committee)

Draft Vision:

"Idaho's spatial data infrastructure is widely used to enhance and expedite public- and private-sector policies and decisions for the benefit of Idahoans and beyond"

Draft Mission:

"Idaho's geospatial community will deliver a robust statewide spatial data infrastructure that supports routine and extraordinary business needs"

- Vision: phrase "Idahoans and beyond" . Maybe eliminate
- Vision: maybe shorten
- Vision possible wording change: "Idaho's SDI is widely used for the benefit of all". But may need to reference, "Idaho users".
- Vision: Maybe use the terms, "widely used" or "widely relied upon"
- Vision possible wording change: "Idaho's SDI is widely relied upon by all business sectors to set policies and decisions to the benefit of all". But, the term "business" may not give sense of including all user groups. Also, does, "set policies and decisions" may not cover all reasons for SDI.
- Vision possible wording change: "Idaho's SDI integrates Idaho's geographic information for the benefit of all users in all walks of life"
- Vision: include idea of "quality of life"
- Mission: maybe drop term "business" since to some, it connotes private companies
- Mission: include idea of integration between GIS and other data sources
- Mission: add, "…will deliver a cooperatively robust…."
- Mission: change "business needs" to "information needs"

Discussion on Draft Goals (reaction to draft Vision and Mission statements prepared by the Executive Steering Committee)

Draft Goals:

1. Secure sustained funding to support SDI implementation and management by the end of 2010.
2. Develop and establish pathways for stewarding Framework data by March 1, 2009.
3. Create and effectively communicate a sound business case for the SDI that promotes alignment of investments in spatial data and technology by the end of June 30, 2009.
4. Support regional GIS user groups and establish or enhance regional centers to aggregate and extend access to Framework and the technology to use it, with emphasis on low-resourced jurisdictions and organizations not able to maintain GIS capability on their own beginning in 2009.
5. Conceive and implement an improved governance and coordination structure, with appropriate legislation, policies, and management practices that support realization of the SDI by the end of 2009.
6. Support local data development through collaboratively developing standards, supporting partnerships, and providing funding by July 1, 2010.
7. Create an effective communication, education and support environment and tools that increase awareness, broad support, and wide use of the SDI.
8. Expand the use of spatial data and technology into new business areas.

- #3: can we state more clearly what is "business case." Maybe use the term, "business justification" or "benefits"
- Include benefit to individuals, public, improvement in quality of life. Use term "constituents."

Potential Initiatives (ideas on important initiatives to be cited in the strategic and business plans for SDI development)

- Outreach/"Pitch" to Stakeholder Groups: Need to more actively engage and conduct outreach and education with key professional groups in state which may include: ID Assoc of Counties, ID Cities Association, ID Association of Assessors
- Could use better information (directory, clearinghouse) about training opportunities—particularly low-cost training
- Improve INSIDE Idaho services providing metadata. Concentrate on improved ease of access.
- Provide directory of people to support professional networking.
- Metadata Tools/Templates: Provide better templates, training, accessibility about metadata. Focus on required fields—main data attributes and key fields that support integration and sharing of data sets.
- GCDB Coordinate Control coordination: important to upgrade accuracy of coordinate information for PLSS corners. Should coordinate with private surveying community to capture survey and monumentation information gathered for individual projects.
- Information Access Legislation: Revise ID Public Records law or get more clear explanation and policies on impacts on GIS data distribution, fees for data sales and licensing, etc. Need consistent statewide policies that are applied by all government entities. Need consistent disclaimer statements for government GIS data.
- Program for senior official outreach and education about applications and benefits of GIS
- Put in place better coordination between local governments (assessor) and federal agencies for mapping and tracking property boundaries
- Data Clearinghouse: need better definition of data clearinghouse function and role. What type of services (in addition to just data download) should be provided?
- Examine range of outsourcing models to support database maintenance and application development—could make use of private companies or public agency partnerships

Other Information and Ideas

- State Tax Commission is key element in some statewide GIS database development (parcels, taxing districts), but they have limited resources to support counties and support consistent GIS database development
- Provide better information and access to training opportunities
- Some local governments are using services from the Geographic Mapping Company (Dwayne Priestly) (e.g. Gooding County). This is one model for outsourcing GIS services freeing the jurisdiction from assigning internal resources.
- Regional Centers: explore this further. One issue is technical support ("geek squad") that would provide access (in regional area) to technical staff that could help answer questions and address GIS use problems. Also, regional centers could play role to connect state agencies to local governments. Maybe base regional centers on existing state offices around the state (E.g. Tax Commission?)
- Long-term technology trend: greater use of UAV technology for land monitoring and data collection
- Some counties have specific restrictions on distribution of property information for commercial purposes. Have agreements and waivers in place.
- USFS is required to release all GIS data except for Threatened and Endangered species, Archaeological date, mine locations
- City of Jerome is outsourcing sign inventory work and database development
- Mention of existing systems with possible GIS relationships: ID Legislative Information System (ILIS), ID Geospatial Education Toolkit (IGET), ID Education Information System (IEIS), ID Emergency Services Information System (IESIS)